

ANIMALS - PLOVERS

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NEWSLINE SOUTH SHORE

Plovers' priority shuts beach area

■ **PLYMOUTH** — Parts of Plymouth Beach will be closed to four-wheel-drive vehicles for the holiday weekend and will probably remain off-limits through the most of July. Piping plovers that hatched there last month have remained in their nest and probably will remain on the beach until they are old enough to fly, about July 18, Town Manager Donald Jacobs said. Four-wheel-drive vehicles are temporarily banned from a 1¼-mile stretch north of the point where the access road crosses from the west side of the peninsula beach to the east side. The plovers are on the federal government's endangered species list and state law requires the town to ban vehicles from traveling within 300 feet of newly hatched chicks. Four chicks hatched last month and three of them survived.